

## **Briefing with Governor Abbott September 5, 2017**

### **EPA Participants:**

- Sam Coleman
- Ronnie Crossland

### **TCEQ Participants:**

- Chairman Shaw
- Kelly Cook
- Beth Seaton
- Erin Chancellor

### **Superfund Sites:**

- Sam discussed the 33 federal Superfund sites and their assessment status. Governor Abbott confirmed that there were no releases from the 33 sites that pose an immediate risk to the public
- The Governor ask that EPA assist TCEQ in assessing a state Superfund site in the Beaumont/Port Arthur area. The TCEQ point of contact will coordinate the request with the TCEQ IC in the field in order to coordinate the assessment assistance.

### **Arkema Response:**

- The Governor wanted to ensure that he understood that the monitoring data did not indicate emissions from the incident posed any health concerns.

### **Health Care:**

- 95% of hospitals are operational in the Houston metro area
- 87% of hospitals are operational in the Beaumont/Port Arthur area
- 83% of hospitals are operational in the Corpus Christi area
- The state mentioned that the hospitals that were not working were smaller facilities

### **Vector Control:**

- A Vector Control Task Force was initiated with state and federal agencies (including EPA)
- Currently assessing and prioritizing areas for spraying
- Some spraying has already begun in areas with existing programs

### **Health and Safety Concerns:**

- Governor was interested in what are the major concerns and how do they get addressed
- The Texas Health Department representative mentioned that the major concerns were: slip, trip and fall hazards, bacteria and mold exposure. The Health Department representative and Chief Kidd (Texas Department of Emergency Management) both stated that proper hygiene during a typical flood response (gloves, mask, and washing) would be the best approach.
- Information from CDC was forwarded to Chief Kidd for consideration.

#### **Beaumont City Water System:**

- The system continues to have problems and TCEQ and EPA personnel have been on standby waiting on access.
- Governor Abbott stated that he might bring the issue up today when he is in the area.

#### **Transportation:**

- I-10 was reported opened for boarder to boarder.
- 118 roads are closed on 9/5/2017

#### **Hurricane Irma:**

- Governor believes that they are getting a handle on the emergency phase of the response
- Keep a safe reserve of resources for Harvey response and then release the others to be able to respond to any impacts caused by Hurricane Irma.
- At the end of 30 days, the Governor wanted a lean organization but sufficient resources to respond to an emergency.